

FADE IN

INT. KENDALL NUCLEAR RESEARCH STATION - AFTERNOON

PROFESSOR LEES sits at a large, metal table and places a slide under a microscope. His son, DAVID, sits next to him.

PROFESSOR LEES  
Look. That's an amoeba, quite  
dead, killed off by radiation.

David looks into the microscope.

DAVID  
Whoa. Looks like a booger.

Professor Lees leans back and smiles. David turns and looks at his father.

PROFESSOR LEES  
I guess it does.

Professor Lees messes David's hair up. David grabs another slide and changes it himself.

DAVID  
What's this one?

Professor Lees looks into the eye piece. He bring it into focus.

PROFESSOR LEES  
Oh. This is a funny one. It is a  
young flatworm.

DAVID  
Cool.

David looks into the microscope.

PROFESSOR LEES  
D'You know, when one flatworm eats  
another

David looks up sharply. Professor smiles at his son.

PROFESSOR LEES (CONT'D)  
it inherits the knowledge of the  
one it has eaten!

DAVID  
Knowledge? So they are smart like  
you, Dad.

Professor Lees moves around the table. He pulls out a metal clipboard.

PROFESSOR LEES

Well, they can be taught simple things like how a drop in temperature means feeding time. Stuff like that.

David continues looking in the microscope. His attention never breaks.

DAVID

He moved

Professor Lees looks up from his clipboard.

PROFESSOR LEES

He couldn't move, he's dead

Professor Lees gently moves his son away. He peers into the microscope.

The slide appears lifeless.

PROFESSOR LEES

Just your imagination.

EXT. LEES' HOUSEHOLD - MORNING

The front door swings open. David runs out with his fishing pole.

David's mother, JEANINE, comes up to the door.

JEANINE

David, where are you going?

David continues down the driveway. He holds up his fishing pole.

DAVID

Fishin!

INT. KENDALL NUCLEAR RESEARCH STATION -- MORNING

Professor Lees sits at his desk. He fills out forms on a clipboard. A LAB ASSISTANT walks up.